
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

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ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 1997

Domestic primary aluminum production in September was 293,509 metric tons. The average daily production rate was 9,784 tons, slightly lower than that of the previous month but slightly higher than the rate for September 1996.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased from 80.1 cents per pound in August to 76.98 cents per pound in September, according to *Platt's Metals Week*. According to *American Metal Market*, the buying price for processed aluminum used beverage can (UBC) scrap held steady at 59 to 60 cents per pound in September. According to *Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report*, the monthly average transaction price for aluminum UBC's decreased from 61.7 cents per pound in August to 59.8 cents per pound in September.

National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Sale

On October 16, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced the sale of 8,518 tons (9,390 short tons) of aluminum metal from the NDS. The value of the metal sold was \$14.3

million. This exhausts the NDS aluminum inventory and the DLA announced that there would be no further offerings of aluminum metal (Defense Logistics Agency, 1997). Sales, which began on April 15, have totaled 56,665 tons (62,462 short tons).

Update

The monthly average market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased slightly to 76.67 cents per pound in October. The *American Metal Market* buying price range for aluminum UBC scrap decreased slightly in early October to 58.5 to 59.5 cents per pound. The UBC price remained at this level through the end of the month.

References Cited

Defense Logistics Agency, 1997, Stockpile accepts aluminum bids: Ft. Belvoir, VA, Defense Logistics Agency news release, October 16, 1 p.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
1996: 5/	3,577	1,710	1,570	3,290	1,910	498	2,410	9,270	1,830
1996:									
September	292	144	130	275	136	43	179	746	1,890
October	304	156	137	293	170	45	215	812	1,840
November	295	143	130	273	147	41	188	756	1,830
December	305	147	128	276	180	39	219	800	1,830
Jan.-Sept.	2,673	1,320	1,150	2,480	1,410	373	1,780	6,930	1,890
1997:									
January	305	161	139	299	145	42	188	792	1,840
February	277	154	133	287	147	37	184	748	1,830
March	307	162	144 r/	305	209	48	257	870 r/	1,810
April	295	162	143	305	196	48	244	844	1,810
May	304	160	138 r/	298 r/	198	49	247	849	1,770
June	296	161	136 r/	297	167	47	214	807 r/	1,790
July	305	168	140 r/	308 r/	157	51	208	821 r/	1,810
August	304	165 r/	137 r/	302 r/	152	47	199	805	1,800
September	294	167	134	301	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan.-Sept.	2,689	1,460	1,240	2,700	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from Current Industrial Reports, Series M33D, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

5/ Includes monthly and annual data.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
1996: 2/	1,580	1,210	1,410	1,250	780	720	105	93	11	10	3,880	3,290
1996:												
September	125	101	110	98	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	275
October	125	102	125	111	77	71	9	9	1	1	337	293
November	125	101	113	101	68	63	9	8	(3/)	(3/)	315	273
December	124	100	113	100	72	67	9	8	1	1	318	276
Jan.-Sept.	1,120	906	1,060	940	599	551	80	73	5	5	2,860	2,480
1997:												
January	142	109	126	113	77	71	7	6	1	1	353	299
February	141	108	116	104	75	69	7	6	(3/)	(3/)	339	287
March	142	109	132	116	80	74	7	6	(3/)	(3/)	361	305
April	144	111	129	114	79	73	7	7	1	1	359	305
May	143	110	124	110	76 r/	70	8	7	1	1	351	298 r/
June	143	110	125	111	75	70 r/	7	6	1	1	350	297
July	144	111	129	114	81 r/	76	8	7	1	1	363 r/	308 r/
August	143	109	119	106 r/	84	78	10 r/	9 r/	1	1	356 r/	302 r/
September	144	111	118	105	78	73	14	12	1	1	355	301
Jan.-Sept.	1,290	987	1,120	993	705	652	74	66	5	5	3,190	2,700

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes monthly and annual data.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN SEPTEMBER 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	120,000	144,000	92,300	111,000
Integrated aluminum companies	118,000	118,000	105,000	105,000
Independent mill fabricators	65,400	78,400	60,600	72,700
Foundries	11,400	13,600	10,100	12,100
Other consumers	498	598	498	598
Total	315,000	355,000	269,000	301,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN
SEPTEMBER 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	26,100 r/	83,500	85,900	23,700
Can stock clippings	8,900	24,900	24,700	9,150
Other clippings	6,170 r/	15,600	15,400	6,430
Borings and turnings	5,470	20,900	20,800	5,590
Dross and skimmings	3,020 r/	28,000	28,000	3,030
Total new scrap	49,600 r/	173,000	175,000	47,900
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, and clippings	31,900 r/	55,100	55,600	31,400
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,040 r/	1,530	1,510	1,060
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	26,100 r/	79,000	77,800	27,300
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	W	W	W	W
Other	1,170	5,150	5,150	1,170
Total old scrap	60,200 r/	141,000	140,000	60,800
Sweated pig	1,280	790	790	1,280
Total all classes	111,000 r/	314,000	315,000	110,000

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks opening	Production Sept.	Net shipments Sept.	Stocks closing	Production Jan.-Sept. 3/	Net shipments Jan.-Sept. 3/
Die cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,300	5,940	5,940	3,300	54,600	55,400
380 and variations	12,400	40,100	40,100	12,400	359,000	359,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	13,100	1,920	1,920	13,100	17,300	17,300
No. 319 and variations	3,020	10,800	10,800	3,020	97,500	97,400
F-132 alloy and variations	1,840	2,690	2,690	1,840	30,700	30,800
Al-Zn alloys	453	225	225	453	2,020	2,020
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	196	802	802	196	7,220	7,220
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	60	77	77	60	694	694
Other 4/	4,340	8,110	8,110	4,340	68,800	67,200
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	5,340 r/	13,100	13,000	5,410	117,000	118,000
Total all alloys	44,100 r/	83,700	83,600	44,100	755,000	755,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	4,310	XX	XX	39,300	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	6,520	XX	XX	55,600	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	438	XX	XX	3,820	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 5/	XX	72,400	XX	XX	657,000	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes revised data from previous months.

4/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

5/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.
Argentina	1,400	8,570	156	593	600	2,860	2,150	12,000
Australia	--	1,250	54	482	73	1,340	127	3,070
Bahrain	--	--	851	6,230	--	--	851	6,230
Belgium	--	47	327	3,310	--	118	327	3,470
Bosnia and Herzegovina	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	17
Brazil	214	13,700	2	147	--	116	217	14,000
Canada	114,000	955,000	29,000	224,000	24,100	166,000	167,000	1,340,000
Croatia	--	--	--	254	--	--	--	254
Czech Republic	--	--	10	44	--	--	10	44
France	12	284	1,040	6,520	313	3,940	1,370	10,700
Germany	27	534	3,230	21,400	37	1,270	3,300	23,200
Ghana	--	1,160	--	--	--	1,650	--	2,810
Hungary	--	4	49	1,480	--	--	49	1,480
Italy	--	18	160	2,020	--	16	160	2,060
Japan	(2/)	131	1,690	11,900	65	563	1,750	12,600
Korea, Republic of	--	45	30	281	95	1,660	125	1,980
Lithuania	--	17	--	--	--	--	--	17
Mexico	136	1,240	1,130	8,770	7,240	55,500	8,510	65,500
Netherlands	9	2,320	263	3,400	--	838	272	6,560
Norway	66	380	373	1,620	--	--	439	2,000
Russia	24,800	272,000	131	7,000	102	2,100	25,100	281,000
Slovakia	39	307	--	--	--	--	39	307
Slovenia	--	--	342	2,280	--	--	342	2,280
South Africa	4,140	11,400	374	3,270	--	637	4,510	15,300
Spain	27	47	985	8,100	223	411	1,240	8,550
Sweden	--	4,070	186	2,090	--	555	186	6,720
Switzerland	--	--	103	1,940	--	--	103	1,940
Tajikistan	4,030	4,030	--	--	--	--	4,030	4,030
Ukraine	--	2,560	--	19	105	105	105	2,690
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	160	1,190	160	1,190
United Kingdom	70	7,120	1,240	11,900	708	6,080	2,020	25,100
Venezuela	2,860	77,400	2,410	19,800	1,060	10,700	6,320	108,000
Other	134	7,060	2,810	20,600	4,360	36,900	7,300	64,500
Total	152,000	1,370,000	46,900	369,000	39,300	294,000	238,000	2,030,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.
Australia	37	290	240	1,970	4	8	281	2,270
Belgium	(2/)	8	587	7,900	18	136	605	8,050
Brazil	32	47	5,240	42,200	--	13	5,280	42,300
Canada	11,700	96,400	32,300	278,000	7,490	57,100	51,500	431,000
China	211	802	3,490	30,500	3,650	25,000	7,360	56,400
Czech Republic	--	--	1	17	--	--	1	17
Dominican Republic	--	(2/)	299	1,600	54	54	353	1,660
Estonia	--	3	--	9	--	--	--	12
France	10	169	539	3,230	2	7	551	3,410
Georgia	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	3
Germany	41	387	485	6,770	(2/)	135	526	7,290
Hong Kong	595	2,880	2,400	12,700	2,130	20,400	5,130	36,000
India	(2/)	2	14	67	37	184	52	253
Israel	5	32	89	553	--	9	94	594
Italy	5	48	330	2,160	--	20	334	2,230
Japan	12,000	67,100	2,720	23,600	3,610	25,200	18,300	116,000
Korea, Republic of	1,280	10,300	1,950	19,400	2,330	21,100	5,560	50,800
Malaysia	(2/)	90	312	4,030	95	1,470	407	5,590
Mexico	5,940	36,700	8,170	66,500	2,970	20,400	17,100	124,000
Netherlands	--	63	53	922	--	24	53	1,010
Russia	--	2	17	26	--	5	17	33
Saudi Arabia	--	3	776	15,500	--	--	776	15,500
Singapore	--	84	187	2,210	19	57	207	2,350
Spain	--	6	116	1,870	--	78	116	1,960
Sweden	--	11	28	117	--	--	28	128
Taiwan	603	7,060	1,140	7,940	6,260	41,200	8,000	56,200
Thailand	120	1,820	266	4,730	79	942	465	7,490
Ukraine	--	--	--	8	--	--	--	8
United Kingdom	118	901	859	10,300	36	4,700	1,010	15,900
Venezuela	3	93	279	4,840	--	212	282	5,150
Other	449	2,680	5,230	44,200	341	2,610	6,020	49,500
Total	33,200	228,000	68,100	594,000	29,100	221,000	130,000	1,040,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.